AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled).

31. (New) A method of extracting a root of a tooth, comprising:

inserting a pin into the root and affixing the pin to the root;

connecting a flexible pulling element to the pin affixed to the root, the pulling element comprising one of a wire, a string, or a rope bent at a substantially right angle along a diverting part, the pulling element being functionally linked to a tensioning device; and

applying a pulling force to the root via the pulling element using the tensioning device so as to extract the root, wherein the pulling force is transmitted from a portion of the pulling element at the diverting part to the root via the pulling element in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the root, and is transmitted from the tensioning device to the portion of the pulling element at the diverting part via the pulling element in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the root, the tensioning device being partially inserted into and supported in the mouth.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising pre-tensioning the pulling element between an application point on the pin and an application point on the tensioning device prior to said applying of the pulling force so as to extract the root, said pre-tensioning being based on a distance between a supporting point of the tensioning device in the mouth and the root to be extracted.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said connecting the pulling element to the pin comprises hooking the pulling element into the pin, further comprising:

hooking the pulling element into the tensioning device; and

pre-tensioning the pulling element between the pin and the tensioning device before hooking the pulling element to the pin or the tensioning device.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said pre tensioning of the pulling element comprises adjusting a tensioning support moveable substantially at a right angle in relation to the longitudinal axis of the root, the tensioning support being adjustable in relation to a base body of

the tensioning device, further comprising loosening the root by sudden activation of the tensioning support prior to said applying the pulling force to extract the root.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said applying the pulling force to extract the root comprises turning a ribbed nut engaging a threaded bolt connected to the tensioning support, the threaded bolt being supported on a base body.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said affixing the pin to the root comprises inserting a threaded pin into the root along the longitudinal axis of the root.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said connecting the flexible pulling element to the pin comprises connecting a first end of the pulling element to the pin, a second end of the pulling element opposite the first end being functionally linked to the tensioning device, the diverting part being located between the first end and the second end.

38. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising initial loosening of the root within the periodontal gap before said applying the pulling force to extract the root.

39. (New) An apparatus for extracting a root of a tooth, comprising:

a pin to be inserted into and affixing to the root;

a diverting part;

a tensioning device to be partially inserted into and supported in a mouth; and

a flexible pulling element connected to said pin to be affixed to the root, said pulling element comprising one of a wire, a string, or a rope bent at a substantially right angle along said diverting part, said pulling element being functionally linked to said tensioning device;

wherein said tensioning device, said pulling element, and said diverting part are arranged and operable to apply a pulling force generated by said tensioning device to the root via said pulling element so as to extract the root, said pulling element being bent along said diverting part so as to transmit the pulling force from a portion of said pulling element at said diverting part to the root in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the root, and so as to

transmit the pulling force from said tensioning device to said portion of said pulling element at said diverting part in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the root.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said tensioning device includes a stretched base body and a tensioning support functionally linked to said pulling element, said tensioning support being longitudinally adjustable in relation to said base body, said tension element tensioned between said pin and said tensioning support rests upon said diverting part connected to said base body.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising a rotating segment rotatably positioned in said base body, and said rotating segment surrounding said pulling element connected to said pin, each of said base body and said rotating segment having a support surface for supporting said apparatus.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said tensioning support has a longitudinally orientated threaded bolt projecting through a support sleeve affixed to said base body, a ribbed nut being axially supported on said support sleeve and located on said threaded bolt such that said threaded bolt connected with said tensioning support is longitudinally adjustable by turning said axially supported ribbed nut.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein said tensioning support is operable to be adjusted in a longitudinal direction between a front base body section and a front facing surface.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein each of said pin and said tensioning support has a recess for receiving a cross pin attached to said pulling element so as to hook said pulling element to said tensioning support and said pin.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said tensioning support has a plurality of hook-shaped recesses arranged one behind the other in a longitudinal direction of said tensioning support for allowing selective hooking of said pulling element to one of said recesses.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said tensioning device includes:

a support sleeve having a facing surface; and

a threaded bolt having a ribbed nut abutting against said facing surface, each of said ribbed nut and said facing surface having corresponding radially extending saw teeth.